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THE VISION OF ESCAFLOWNE™

Hitomi, Van, and Shian strike back at Zaibach, but Van's lust for vengeance may cost them their advantage...and their lives. Hitomi struggles to master her mysterious powers while Van races against time to save his captive mother from the sadistic Dilandau. But when it comes to Queen Escalina, is it already too late?

OT
OLDER TEEN
AGE 16+

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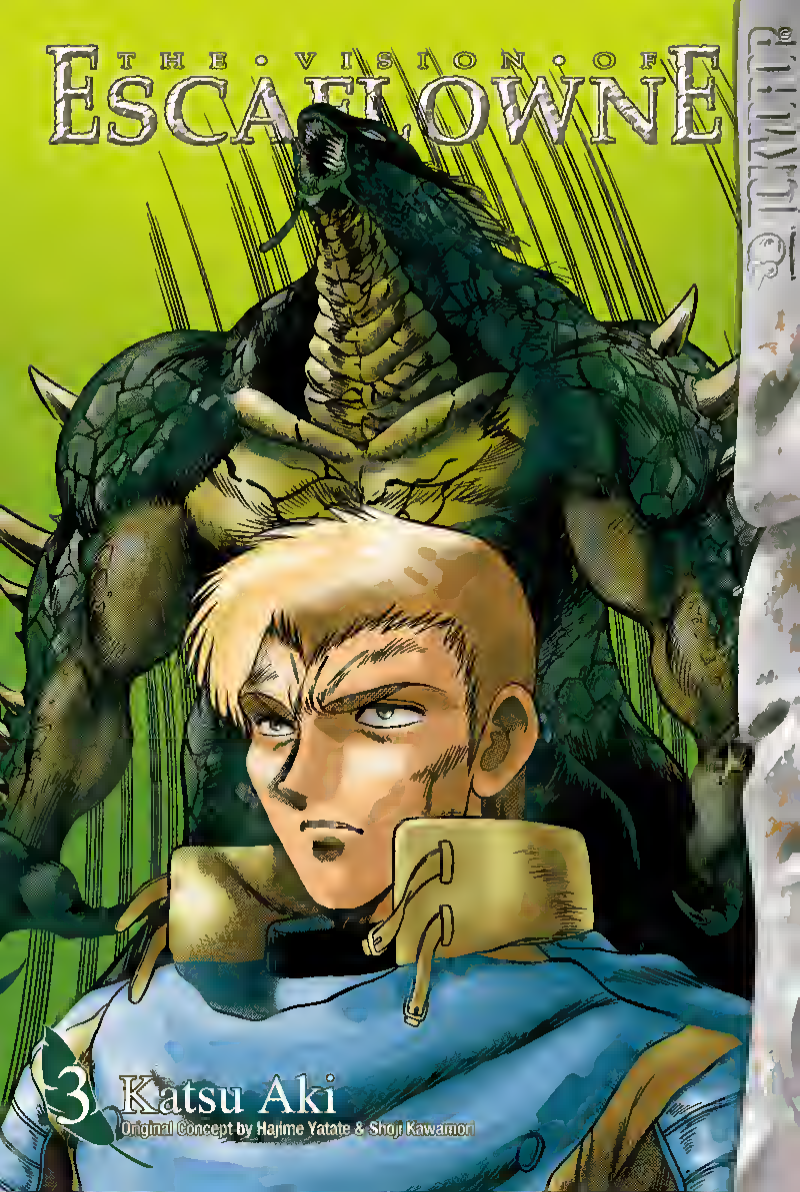
THE VISION OF ESCAFLOWNE



3

Katsu Aki

Original Concept by Hajime Yatate & Shoji Kawamori

THE VISION OF ESCAFLOWNE

INTRODUCTION

"Escaflowne" began as a story in the minds of Hajime Yadate and Shoji Kawamori, two brilliant creators who planned Hitomi's epic tale to appear as an animated television series. Whereas most anime series begin as manga, Escaflowne's two manga series were built off the ideas for the anime: a shojo, or "girls" manga consisting of two volumes, and a shonen, or "boys" manga, the longer of the two series and the one you are currently reading. This version of the Escaflowne tale is quite different from the anime, featuring more action, tweaked character designs, and an altered story. The appeal of Escaflowne has always crossed gender lines, and even this "boys" version of the manga has elements that will appeal to everyone, but it will be difficult to compare this comic to the television series--it's quite different. That being said, please sit back, relax, and enjoy the tale of Escaflowne like you've never seen it before.

Special thanks to Egan Loo and his Escaflowne Compendium (http://www.anime.net/escaflowne/).

Translator - Jeremiah Bourque
English Adaptation - Lianne Sentar
Associate Editor - Tim Beedle
Copy Editor - Bryce P. Coleman
Retouch and Lettering - Eric Botero
Cover Layout - Raymond Makowski

Editor - Rob Tokar
Managing Editor - Jill Freshney
Production Coordinator - Antonio DePietro
Production Manager - Jennifer Miller
Art Director - Matt Alford
Editorial Director - Jeremy Ross
VP of Production - Ron Klamert
President & C.O.O. - John Parker
Publisher & C.E.O. - Stuart Levy

Email: editor@TOKYOPOP.com
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TOKYOPOP Inc
5900 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 2000
Los Angeles, CA 90036

THE VISION OF ESCAFLOWNE VOLUME 3

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The Story Thus Far

Hilomi Hoshino's interest in fortune-telling was both simple and innocent—until she started having strange, recurring visions of a prince and a jewel. During a routine reading, Hilomi's soul was snatched from her body and she found herself in the land of Gaea—the place she had seen in her visions—and in a strange body that looks like her own but is formed from the mysterious crystal known as Energist.

The prince from her dreams turned out to be a rash, hot-headed, and rather short teenager named Van. The magic of his country (Fanelia) selected Hilomi to be the Energist power of their mechanical god Escaflowne. As Van tried to push Hilomi into her new role as robot fuel, Fanelia was attacked by the aggressive Zaibach Empire. Hilomi managed to power Escaflowne to save her life and Van's, but the Zaibach warrior Dilandau flattened Fanelia, killed Captain Balgus, and kidnapped Queen Escalina.

During some dangerous run-ins with Zaibach and Dilandau, Hilomi and Van gained the aid of the Asturian knight Allen Schezar. Allen accompanied them on a dangerous journey to the Holy Spring Ubdo where Elder Lagusu taught Hilomi more about her abilities. After returning to Asturia, Hilomi was kidnapped by Shian, a Fanelian survivor who blamed Van for their country's fate. Agreeing to join forces, Van, Shian, and Hilomi took Escaflowne underwater to infiltrate Zaibach through one of its waste disposal pipes. Unfortunately, the pipes close much more quickly than they expected...

ESCAFLOWNE VOL. 3

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Vision 14: The Forest Of Deception 141

CHARACTER INTRODUCTIONS

Marshal Gelguran
A commanding officer in the Zaibach army and Dilandau's superior.

Knight of Flame
One of the most powerful Knight Machines in the Zaibach Empire, the Knight of Flame is Zaibach's top assassin.

Van
Prince of the Kingdom of Fanelia and pilot of Escaflowne, Van Slanzar de Fanelia seeks vengeance against the Zaibach Empire for destroying his homeland and kidnapping his mother.

Allen
Head of the Knights Caeli of the Asturian Royal House and pilot of Scherazade, Allen Schezar VIII endangered Asturia's treaty with the Zaibach Empire by protecting Van and Hitomi.

Dilandau
Executive Captain of the Zaibach Empire, Dilandau Albatou kidnapped Queen Escalina to learn the secret of the Energist.

Hitomi
An ordinary girl who loves reading fortunes, Hitomi Hoshino's soul was involuntarily transported from the Earth to Fanelia to be the source of Escaflowne's power.

Lagusu
Elder of the descendants of the Holy Spring of Ubdo, Lagusu taught Hitomi about her new Energist abilities. Lagusu's right arm is made of Energist.

Shian
Daughter of Captain Gran Balgus who was killed protecting Van from Dilandau, Shian organized her own group of resistance fighters after the Zaibach attack.

Escalina
Queen of Fanelia and Van's mother, Escalina was kidnapped by Dilandau in order to learn the secrets of the Energist.

Scherazade
A legendary Knight Machine piloted by Allen Schezar VIII.

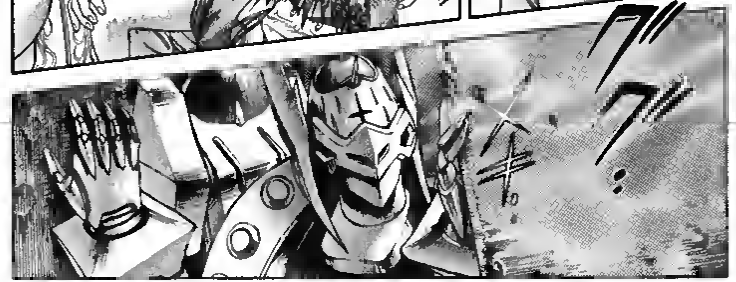
Escaflowne
A powerful Knight Machine piloted by Van and powered by Hitomi, Escaflowne is both the protector and deity of the people of Fanelia.

VISION 10:
CONSPIRACY

WHAT? YOU THINK YOU CAN BLOW THE DOOR?

VAN, FOCUS THE ENERGIST'S POWER ON ESCA'S HANDS.

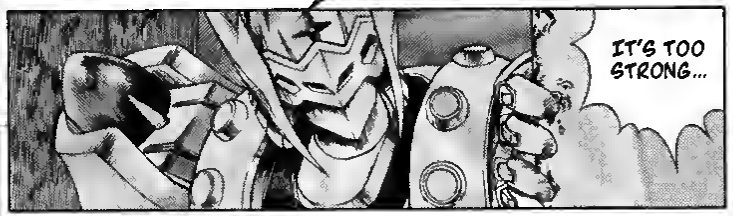
DON'T BE AN IDIOT! SMASH THAT DOOR AND ZAIBACH'LL KNOW WE'RE HERE!



GOOD. WORTH A SHOT.

BUT I DO THINK I CAN INCREASE ESCA'S STRENGTH.
I KNOW! I'M NOT GOING TO BREAK ANYTHING.

DAMMIT! WE'RE DEAD IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING!


IT'S TOO STRONG...

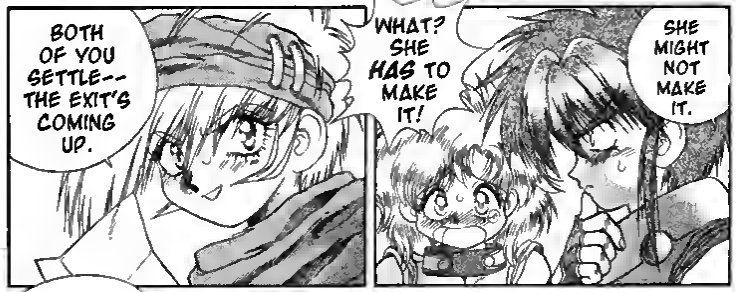
DAMMIT! ESCAFLOWNE, YOU'RE LETTING ME DOWN!

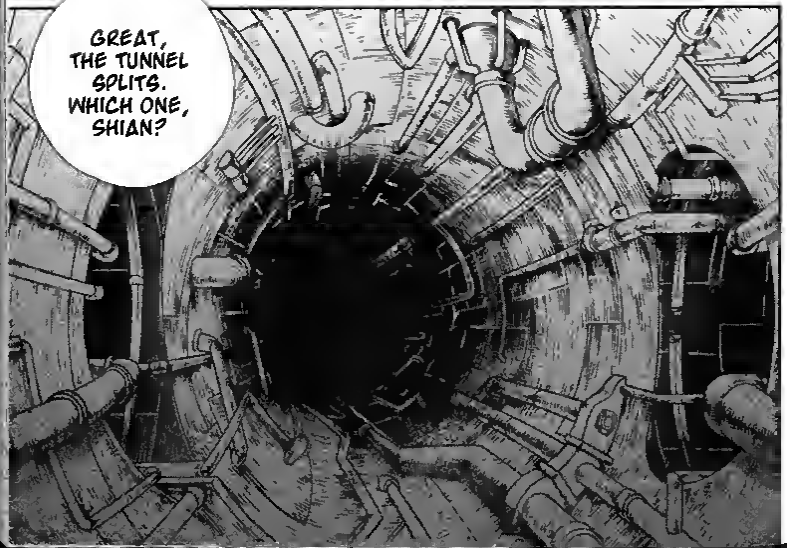
OPEN THE HELL UP!

NOW, JUMP, VAN!

C'MON, YOU OVERSIZED SHITPIPE!

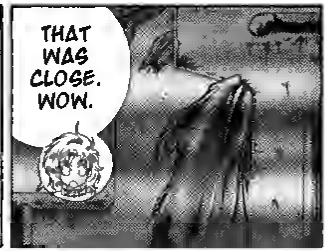
WE'VE SPRUNG A LEAK? MAN...I GUESS WE PUSHED ESCAFLOWNE TOO HARD.
ACK! THAT'S COLD!
YII!


BOTH OF YOU SETTLE-- THE EXIT'S COMING UP.
WHAT? SHE HAS TO MAKE IT!
SHE MIGHT NOT MAKE IT.

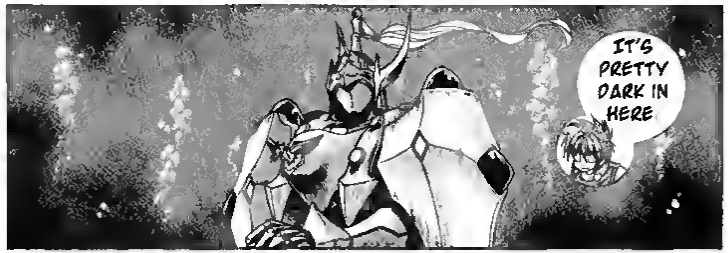

GREAT, THE TUNNEL SPLITS. WHICH ONE, SHIAN?

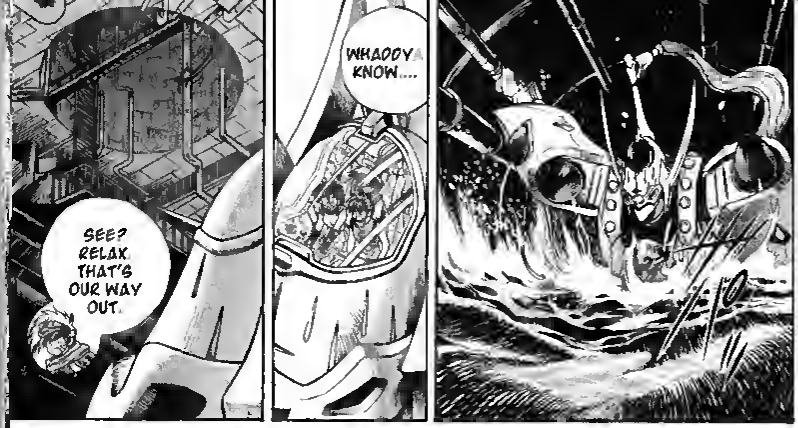
H-HOT DAMN, IT WORKED.

HEY, WHERE'D YOU GET A ZAIBACH MAP?
WHAT-EVER. WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO.


THAT WAS CLOSE. WOW.

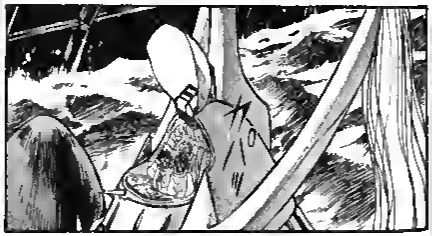
YEAH? WELL, HEAD YOUR ASS OUTTA MY WAY!
FROM ASTURIA, DOOFUS. THEY STILL TRADE WITH ZAIBACH. I USE MY HEAD TO PLAN.


IT'S PRETTY DARK IN HERE


SEE? RELAX. THAT'S OUR WAY OUT.
WHADDYA KNOW....

HERE GOES.

EW OKAY.
PUT ON THIS MASK. THE EXHAUST FROM THE FUEL DOWN HERE CAN KILL YOU



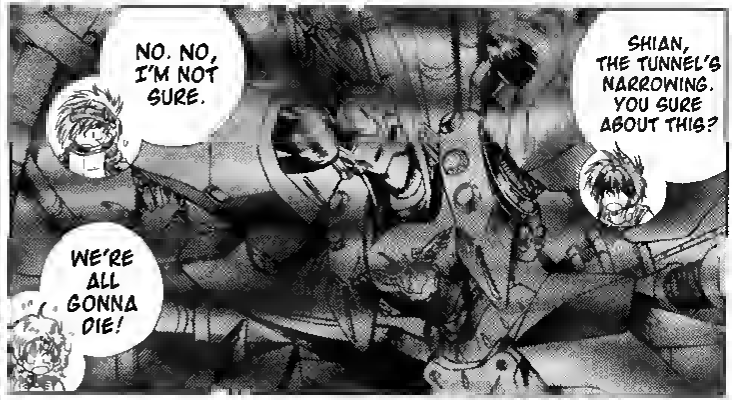
DON'T WORRY, LITTLE ESCA. I PROMISE WE'LL BE BACK.

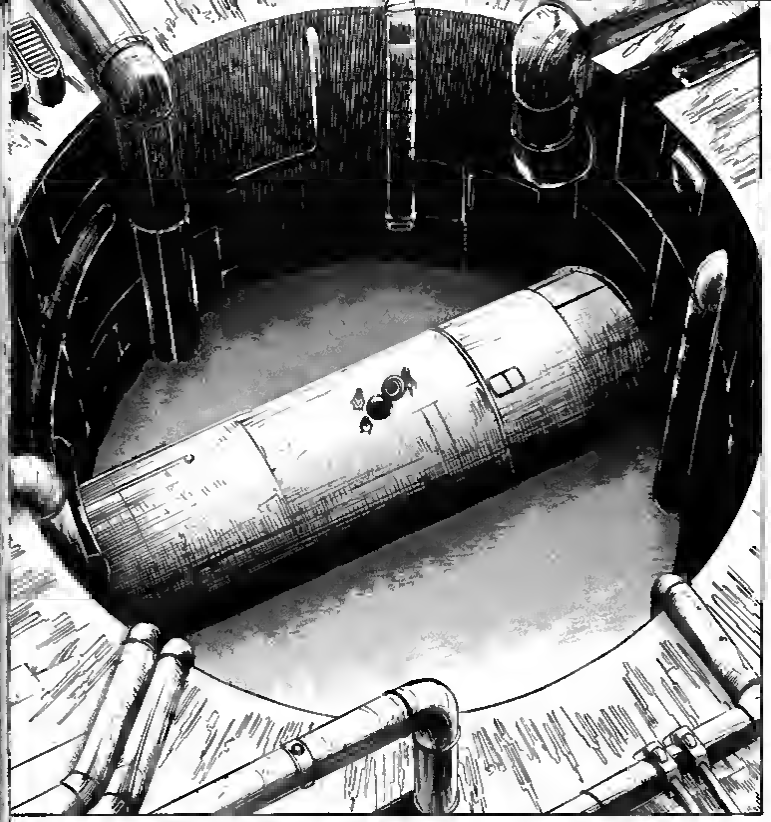
INCREDIBLE THAT'S A WORD FOR IT.

IT LOOKS LIKE MORE CRAWDADES'VE BEEN ADDED SINCE THIS MAP WAS MADE. ZAISACH'S GROWTH IS INCREDIBLE!

WHAT?
IT DOESN'T SAY.

UM, TAKE THE LEFT. YEAH.
CALM DOWN!
drip
drip
CAN WE GO? CAN WE GO AND NOT DIE?!


NO. NO, I'M NOT SURE.
SHIAN, THE TUNNEL'S NARROWING. YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE!



!!

THOSE WALLS ARE TOO HIGH TO SCALE.
WE'RE INSIDE A HOLE.

HOW MUCH LONGER MISS SHIAN?
HUFF HUFF

WHY DON'T WE TRY GETTING OUT THROUGH THERE?

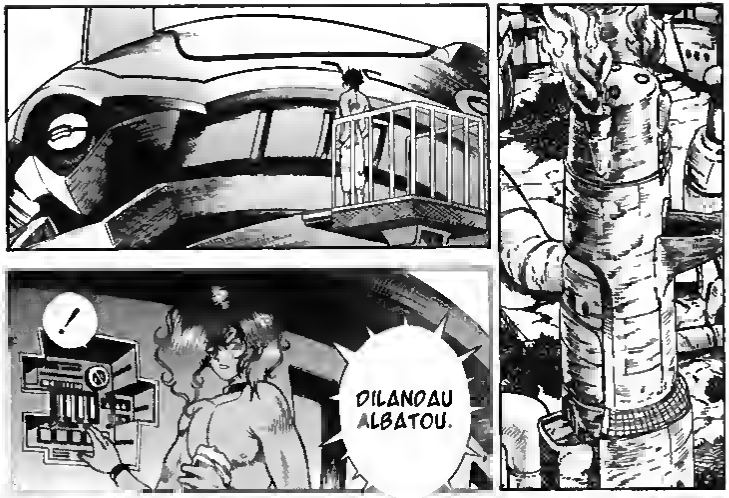
YOUR NAVIGATIONAL SKILLS SUCK
UH, ER... YES.

YOU CAN DIE. I'M STANDING BACK.

WAIT, WHAT IF SOMETHING COMES BURSTING OUT OF THERE?
WE DIE.
LET'S SEE HERE.

BOTH OF YOU, GRAB ONTO ME!
LET ME TRY SOMETHING
AAAH!
NOT AGAIN WITH THESE THINGS!
HEY, YOU OKAY?!
OW!
THIS ISN'T GONNA WORK.
ha
huff

WE MADE IT... IT'S THE ZAIBACH EMPIRE!


!
DILANDAU ALBATOU.

QUEEN ESCALINA IS TO DIE.
HER EXECUTION WILL BE TONIGHT.
!!
WHAT DO YOU WANT, MARSHAL ?
IT'S ME. I BRING NEWS.

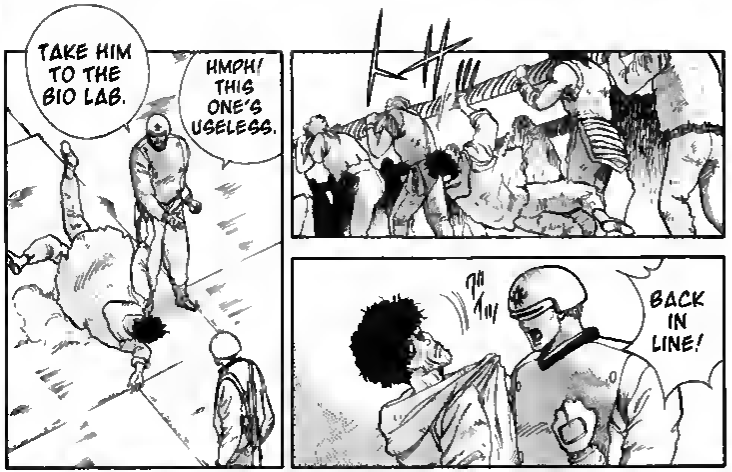
I DON'T BELIEVE SHE WILL REVEAL ANYTHING ABOUT THE ULTIMATE FUEL, EMPEROR.
NO.

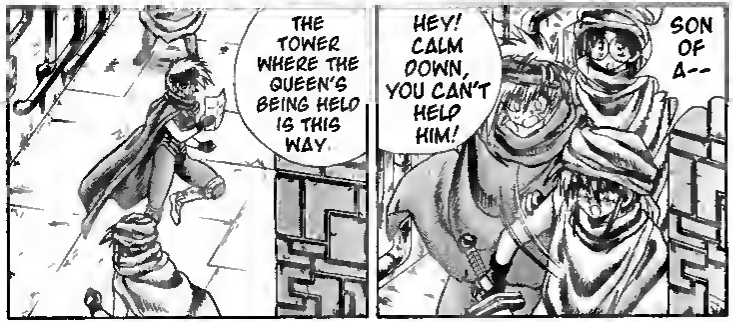
Has the Queen of Fanelia broken her silence?

Fine. Do as you wish with her.
.....

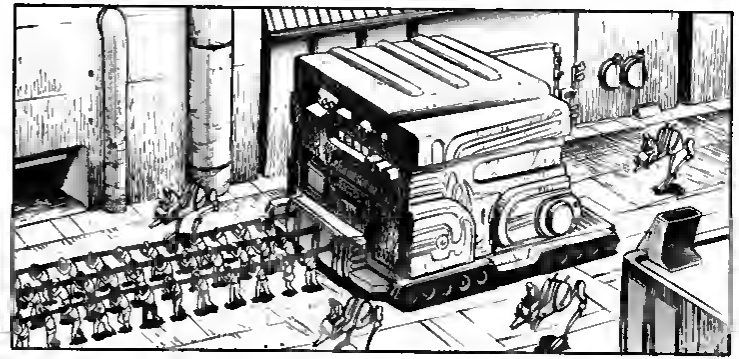
AS I WISH ...?

THE ONLY REASON LORD DORNKIRK TOLERATES YOU IS FOR YOUR EXCEPTIONAL ABILITY WITH THE KNIGHT MACHINES.
DON'T BE SO CONCEITED, PUP.
I REPORTED YOUR FAILURES. SHE HAS ALREADY LIVED TOO LONG.
LORD DORN-KIRK, OF COURSE.
WHO DECIDED THAT?!
SUCH A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN...I'M SURE YOU COULDN'T RESIST
HAVEN'T YOU ALREADY HAD YOUR TASTE OF HER?
YOU SHOULD HAVE FALLEN WITH THE REST OF FANELIA!
A FOREIGN THUG WITH A HINT OF TALENT.
I'VE SERVED ZAIBACH SINCE THE DAY I WAS BORN. DO NOT PRESUME TO QUESTION ME.
DON'T FORGET WHAT YOU JUST SAID, GELGURAN.
.....
AND DO WEAR A SHIRT FOR TONIGHT'S EXECUTION.
PLEASE. YOUR THREATS ARE IDLE.
NOW, NOW.
ARROGANT BASTARD!


TAKE HIM TO THE BIO LAB.
HMPH! THIS ONE'S USELESS.
BACK IN LINE!


THE TOWER WHERE THE QUEEN'S BEING HELD IS THIS WAY.
HEY! CALM DOWN, YOU CAN'T HELP HIM!
SON OF A--

ALL THOSE POOR PEOPLE... I WONDER HOW MANY ARE FANELIANS.



WHAT? ZAIBACH SHOULD USE THEIR KNIGHT MACHINES FOR LABOR LIKE THAT!
SLAVES TAKEN FROM LANDS THEY'VE CONQUERED.

WHO ARE THEY?

PEOPLE ARE NOTHING BUT TOOLS TO THOSE ZAIBACH DOGS.
YOU THINK THAT'S BAD? I'VE HEARD THEY EXPERIMENT ON HUMAN BEINGS.

QUICK, HIDE!
C-CRAP, THAT'S A ZAIBACH SOLDIER.
!
YAIFA?
YAIFA!
LOOKS LIKE WOMEN AND KIDS. OLD PEOPLE, TOO.
WHAT'S ALL THIS?

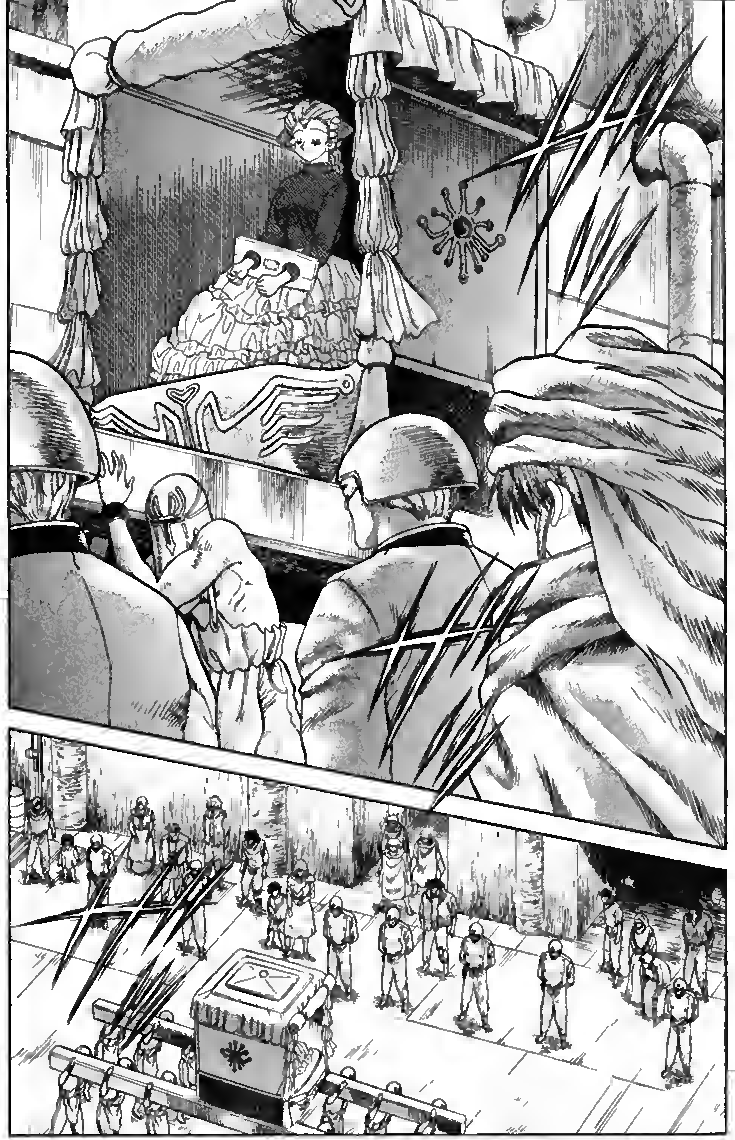
WHERE'S THE EXECUTION?! TELL ME, ASSHOLE!
VAN, WAIT!
?!
OH, THIS'LL HELP THINGS!
VAN!
munch
munch
SORRY, THIS IS ALL I COULD GET TODAY.
YAY! THANK YOU!
I HAVE TO ATTEND THE CEREMONY.
THE QUEEN OF FANELIA IS TO BE EXECUTED TONIGHT.
YAIFA, YOU'RE LEAVING ALREADY?
I'LL BE OFF, THEN.
MOTHER!!!
WHAT?!

YOU'RE... WHAT? A FANELIAN REFUGEE? DOESN'T SURPRISE ME.
LOOK, I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU.
THE EXECUTION WILL BE THERE, BUT REFUGEES ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED.
THE COLISEUM BY THE SOUTH TOWER
NORMALLY I'D HAVE TO DISARM YOU, BUT...
YOU MAY STARVE, BUT YOU'LL BE SAFE FROM THE BIO LAB.
TAKE MY ADVICE AND STAY HERE.
.....

IF I TELL YOU, THEN WHAT?
HUH?
LEAVE HIM ALONE!
STOP IT!
BUT ...
YAIFA'S OUR FRIEND!
H-HEY, KIDS.

THE SUFFERING OF A FEW IS NECESSARY FOR THE PROSPERITY OF MANY.
LORD DORNKIRK WILL SOON BRING PEACE TO ALL OF GAEA.
DILANDAU?!
CAPTAIN DILANDAU TOOK THAT PATH.
IF YOU'RE SKILLED, YOU MAY BE ABLE TO GET OUT OF HERE PILOT A KNIGHT MACHINE FOR ZAIBACH, EVEN.
YOU'RE A BRAVE BOY
I HAVE TO GO. SEE YOU AGAIN.

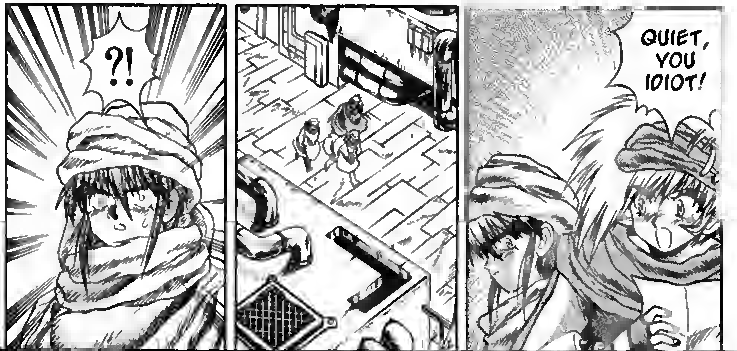
THEY CAN'T KEEP TORTURING FOREIGNERS LIKE THIS
WHY IS ZAIBACH SO BENT ON INVASION?
WHY?
WAIT!
YOU REALLY KNOW NOTHING.
.....
THOSE FOREIGNERS ARE BLESSED ASSISTANTS IN THE HEIGHTENING OF THE EMPIRE'S PROSPERITY. THEIR POSITION IS AN HONOR!
ALL OF ZAIBACH'S AFFAIRS ARE CONDUCTED ACCORDING TO EMPEROR DORNKIRK'S WILL.
WHAT?



WE'RE GOING TO THAT COLISEUM!
WE'VE WASTED ENOUGH TIME.

SO DO BABY DRAGONS!
HE SEEMED NICE ENOUGH

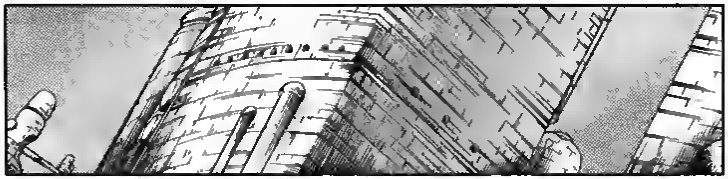
...I WON'T LET MY OWN MOTHER DIE!
I DON'T CARE WHAT THE HELL IT TAKES...

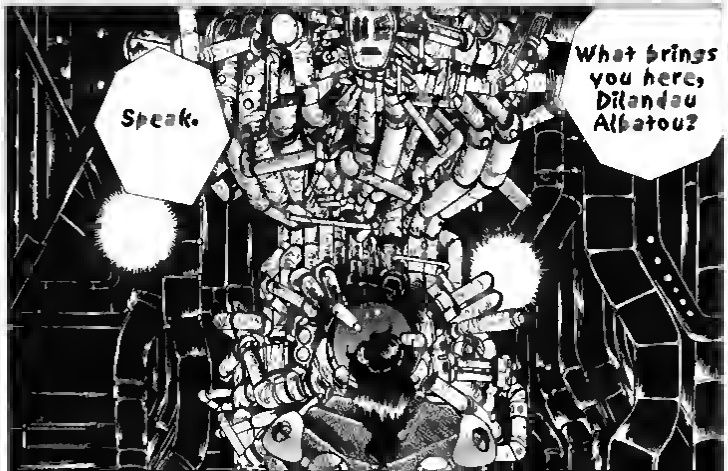

?!
QUIET, YOU IDIOT!

VISION 11:

DEATH TO THE QUEEN

I'LL SAVE YOU, MOTHER. JUST HANG ON!
MM... RRGH!

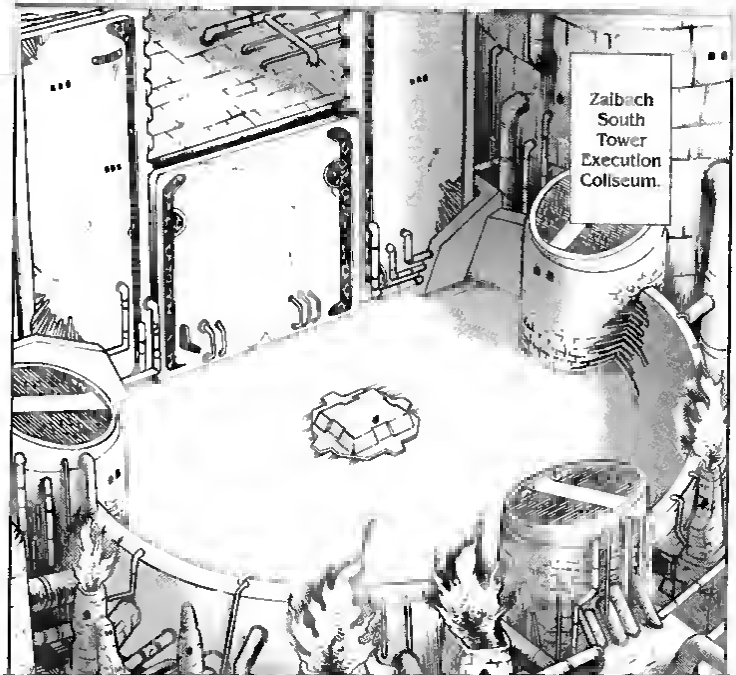



Speak.
What brings you here, Dilandau Albatou?

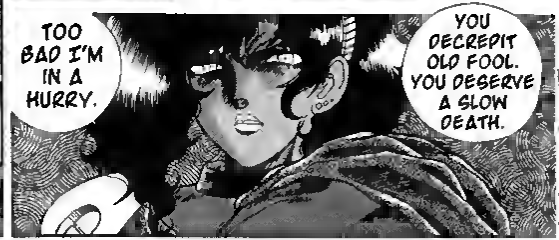
THAT'S MY MOTHER UP THERE!
BUT THEY'RE GOING TO...
SETTLE DOWN BEFORE I MAKE YOU!
VAN, DON'T!
...AND THOSE SOLDIERS WILL KILL US!
DAMMIT, VAN! WE'RE BEHIND ENEMY LINES! YOU KEEP SCREAMING AT THE TOP OF YOUR LUNGS LIKE THIS...

...FANELIAN TRASH LIKE YOU!
HOW ABSOLUTELY PATHETIC! EXACTLY WHAT I'D EXPECT FROM...
BEGGING FOR THE QUEEN'S LIFE, DILANDAU?
?!
tup
tup
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE SHE TALKS.
IF MY GUESS IS CORRECT, FANELIA'S ENERGIST IS THE CRYSTALLIZED POWER WE SEEK.
I'M CERTAIN SHE KNOWS WHERE THE ULTIMATE FUEL LIES WITHIN FANELIA.
I REQUEST YOU HALT THE EXECUTION OF THE QUEEN ESCALINA.
We don't need the queen for that.
The Energist, you say. Fine, YOU find it.
Y-YES... LORD DORNKIRK.
BUT...
Leave me now, Dilandau.

SO IT FINALLY COMES TO LIGHT. EVEN IN ZAIBACH THERE'S NO PLACE FOR ME...

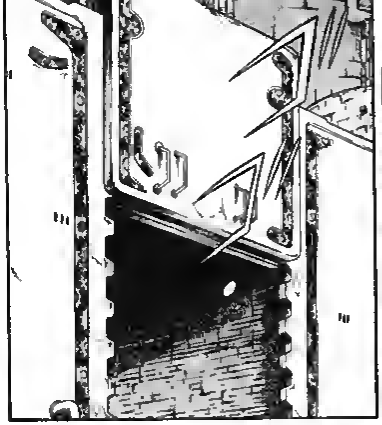

Zaibach South Tower Execution Coliseum.

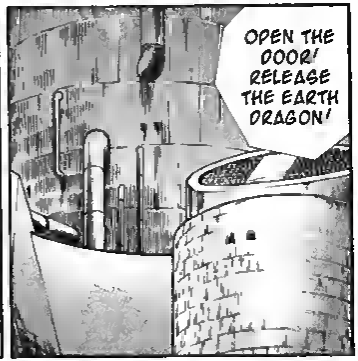
GHCK!
TREASON! SOMEBODY HEL--
Y-YOU FOOL... WHAT HAVE YOU...

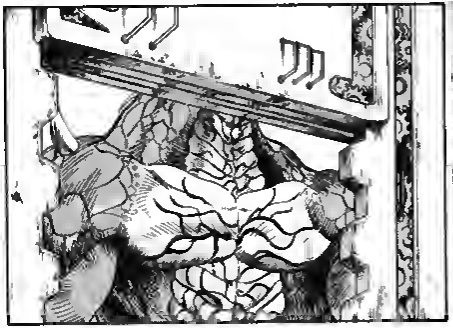

TOO BAD I'M IN A HURRY.
YOU DECREPIT OLD FOOL. YOU DESERVE A SLOW DEATH.

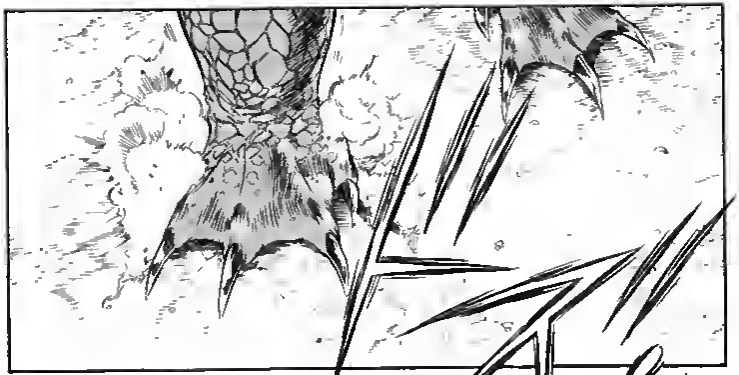
?!
WHO'S THERE?!
NGH!
GOOD! YOU TWO READY?
I GUESS THIS IS THE COLISEUM.
DON'T WORRY, IT'S NOT FATAL, JUST VERY PAINFUL.
HAAGH!

RAAAR!




OPEN THE DOOR! RELEASE THE EARTH DRAGON!





YAGH!

VAN ?!

RIGHT!
LEAVE THE LIZARD TO ME. GET THE QUEEN!
YOU KNOW HIM, YAIFA?
IT'S THAT BOY. HOW TERRIBLY RECKLESS.

ZAIBACH BASTARDS!
SCREW THIS!

HOLY SHIT! THEY'RE GONNA FEED HER TO THAT THING!

MOTHER, PLEASE HOLD ON!
?!
WHAT'S THAT SOLDIER DOING?

DARLING, WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN SUCH A DANGEROUS PLACE?
HOLD STILL, MOTHER.
I-IT'S OKAY. I'M OKAY.
SHIAN!
I'M HERE FOR YOU. I-I WAS SEARCHING FOR YOU, MOTHER.
OH, MAN...
I'VE MISSED YOU... MY BEAUTIFUL SON.
.....
LEAVE THEM ALONE; THEY STILL STAND NO CHANCE AGAINST A HYENA DRAGON.
YOUR ORDERS, ADMIRAL ZONGI?!
HMPH. QUIET, YOU'RE RUINING THE MOOD.
HEY, UGLY!
RAAAR!
CRAP! THOSE SCALES ARE LIKE ROCK.
AAAH!

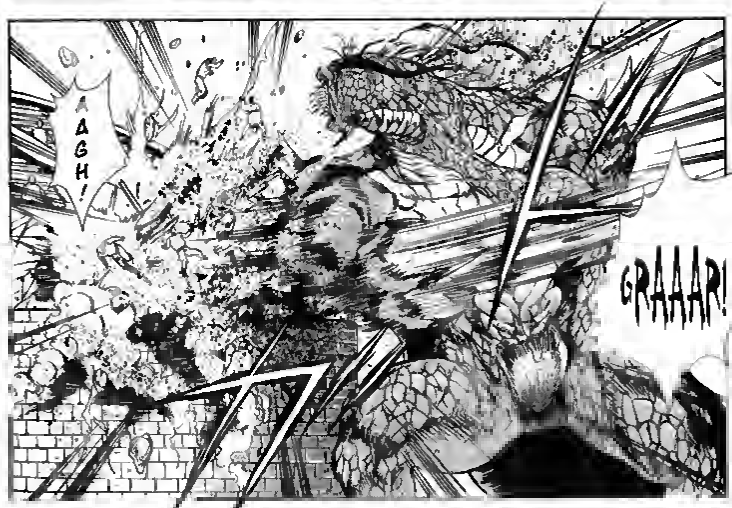
IT CONTAINS THE SECRET OF OUR GUARDIAN DEITY.
THE SECRET OF ESCAFLOWNE?!
ROOAR!
I COULDN'T DO THAT!
NOW, PLEASE LEAVE ME.
THIS TIME...
THIS TIME, I'LL PROTECT YOU TO THE DEATH!
MOTHER!
YEEK!
COME WITH ME, ALL RIGHT?
VAN, THIS IS A STONE OF MEMORY.
I DID NOT KNOW IF I WOULD SEE YOU AGAIN, SO INSIDE IT I LEFT A MESSAGE.
DRAGON GETS AN APPETIZER AND A MAIN COURSE! PASS THE POPCORN!
THAT'S HER KID? DAMN... I'D LET MY MUM GET CHEWED.
ARE YOU HURT?
I'M FINE...

...YOUR ASS IS MINE!
RAAAAAAAR!
RAAAR!
BASTARD!
BUCK ALL YOU WANT, DICKHEAD...
ROOAR!

WATCH IT!
GRIIIII!
CRAP!
DAMMIT! WE'RE DONE FOR.
GRIIIR!

WHOOPS. I THINK YOU JUST MADE IT MAD, KID.

hah ha
VAN!


AAGH!
GRAAAR!

SO? WHAT DO YOU DO?
LOOKS LIKE OUR DRAGON'S HIT BER-SERKER MODE.

RIIIIIR!
?!
DILAN-DAU, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
!!
THAT LOOKS LIKE CAPTAIN DILAN-DAU'S--
WHAT THE HELL'S THAT?!

I'VE YET TO HEAR HER.
I WANT MY LITTLE SONGBIRD TO SING.
VAN!
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, PLEASE, LIVE!
VAN!
NO! PLEASE!
MOTHER!
SHE WAS RIGHT HERE! SHE HELD ME, SHE WAS... I CAN'T BELIEVE I LOST HER AGAIN!
NOT AGAIN... GOODAMMIT... NOT AGAIN!
?!
MOTHER!
VAN, DARLING!
SORRY, LITTLE PRINCE.
YOU CAN'T HAVE HER BACK JUST YET.
DILANDAU, YOU GOD-DAMNED FREAK! WHAT THE HELL DO YOU WANT HER FOR?!

HURRY OR WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT!
THE DOOR'S CLOSING!
?!
YOU CLOSE AND I'LL--
HOLD ON...
JINGLE
R-RIGHT.
LET'S GET TO ESCA-FLOWNE! WE'RE FOLLOWING.
DILANDAU ALBATOU IS A TRAITOR TO ZAIBACH.
TRACK AND ELIMINATE HIM AND THE FANELIAN PRINCE. SEAL THE EXITS!
YES, SIR!

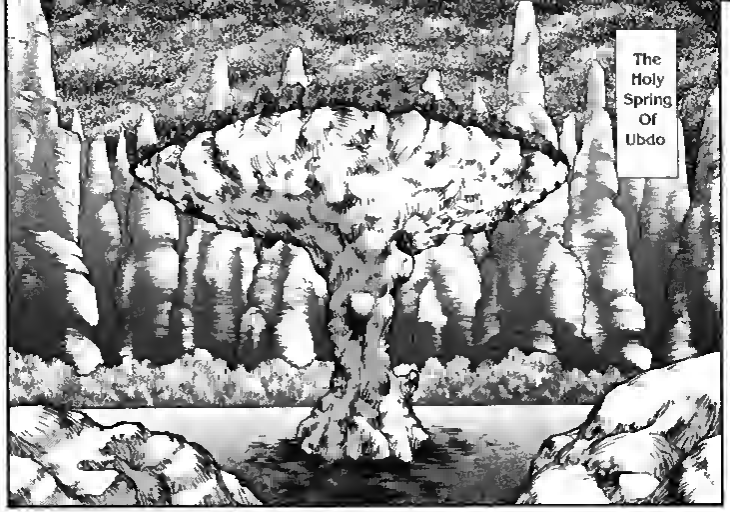
I... I DON'T...
I'M REALLY SORRY I DIDN'T MEAN TO! I'M SO CLUMSY!
YO, IT'S OKAY
WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE. VAN CUT OFF MY LEG
ARE YOU INSANE?!
DO YOU HAVE A BETTER IDEA?!
MY LEG'S STUCK!
AAAAH!
HITOMI!
Nngh!
DAMN IT ALL TO HELL
I... I CAN'T GET IT OUT!
NO DICE.
WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE HER HERE.
huff
huff
I KNOW. WITHOUT HER, ESCAFLOWNE WON'T MOVE

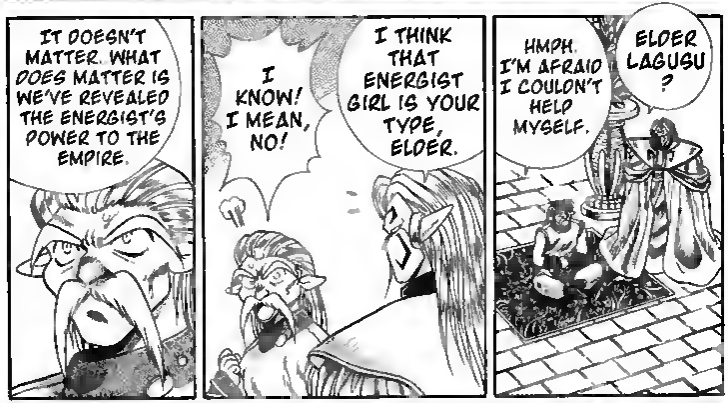
?!
GOOD JOB, BOY. SAVES US THE TROUBLE.
DON'T MOVE.
BACK OFF!
DAUGHTER OF THE ENERGIST, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
L-LAGUSU ?!
NO... WE CAN'T LOSE NOW.
HELL.
IT'S OVER, PUNKS.

skrick
skree
OPEN UP YOU PIECE OF CRAP!
WHAT?
I'M NOT GONNA CUT OFF YOUR LEG. IT'S A STUPID IDEA AND I WON'T GO ALONG WITH IT.
EEK!
NOW OPEN THE HELL UP!
FORGET ABOUT IT.
TH-THANK YOU. YOU SAVED ME, VAN.

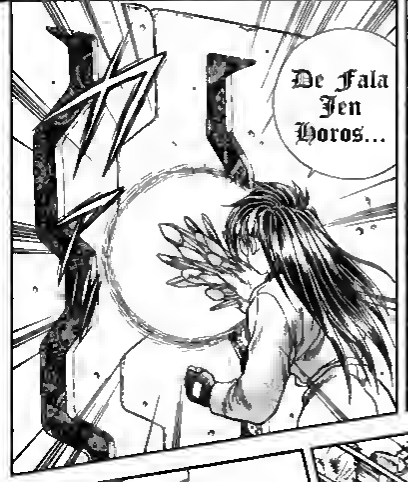
VISION 12:
IDENTITY OF THE FLAME
De Fala Jen Horos...
De Fala Jen Horos...
JUST RELAX. BRING YOUR RIGHT ARM FORWARD.
YOU MUST CAST THE HOROS SPELL.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I WANT YOU TO CONTROL THE ENERGIST THE WAY I DO.
?!
WHAT THE HELL?!
YAAAH!

HOLY SHIT!
WHAT... WHAT DID I...
WHAT'S SHE--
AARGH!
ugh...
WHAT KIND OF POWER WAS THAT?
DID YOU HEAR LAGUSU AGAIN?
REMIND ME NOT TO PISS YOU OFF.
UM, YEAH.


The Holy Spring Of Ubdo


IT DOESN'T MATTER. WHAT DOES MATTER IS WE'VE REVEALED THE ENERGIST'S POWER TO THE EMPIRE.
I KNOW! I MEAN, NO!
I THINK THAT ENERGIST GIRL IS YOUR TYPE, ELDER.
HMPH. I'M AFRAID I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF.
ELDER LAGUSU ?

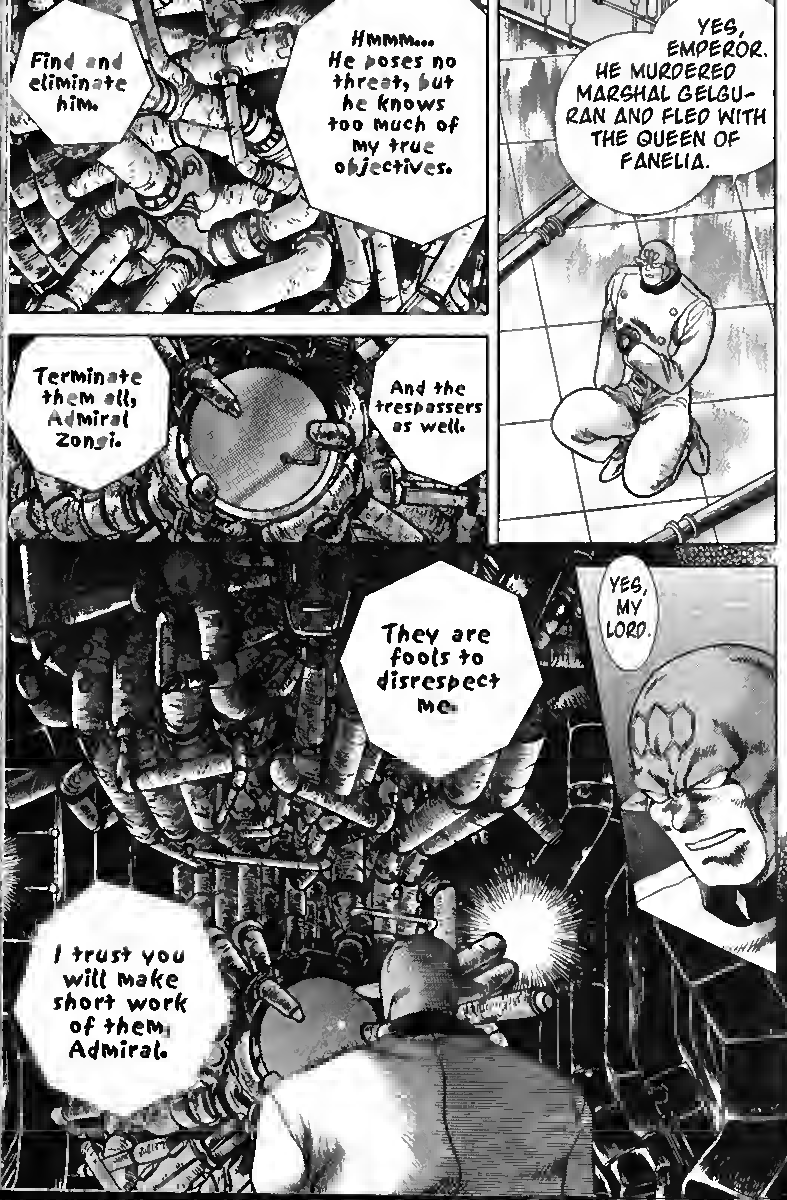
...MORE DANGERS LIE AHEAD. TAKE HEART AND TAKE CARE.
DAUGHTER OF THE ENERGIST, PRINCE VAN OF FANELIA...

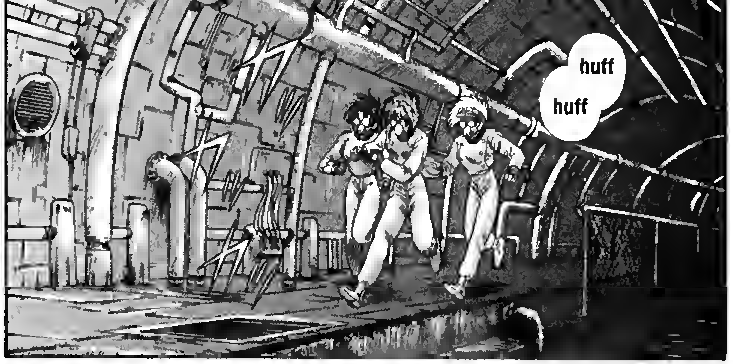

De Fala Jen Horos...

Y-YEAH!
CAN YOU GET THE DOOR?

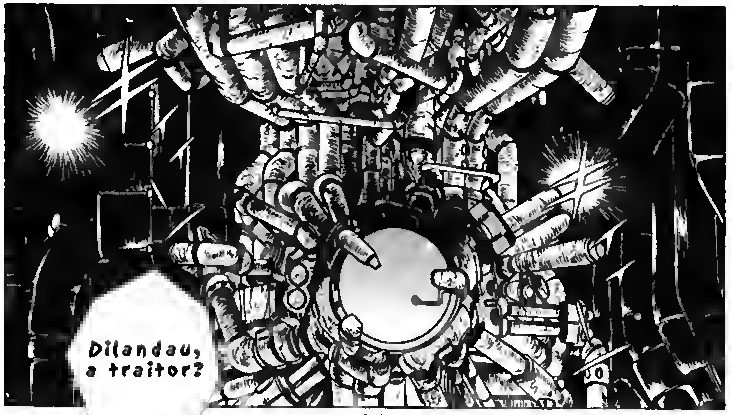
DON'T LET THEM ESCAPE! MOVE!

THIS ISN'T RIGHT. SOMEONE SO YOUNG SHOULDN'T BE SO POWERFUL. UNLESS SHE'S MORE THAN SHE APPEARS TO BE...


Find and eliminate him.
Hmmm... He poses no threat, but he knows too much of my true objectives.
YES, EMPEROR. HE MURDERED MARSHAL GELGURAN AND FLED WITH THE QUEEN OF FANELIA.
Terminate them all, Admiral Zongi.
And the trespassers as well.
They are fools to disrespect me.
YES, MY LORD.
I trust you will make short work of them, Admiral.

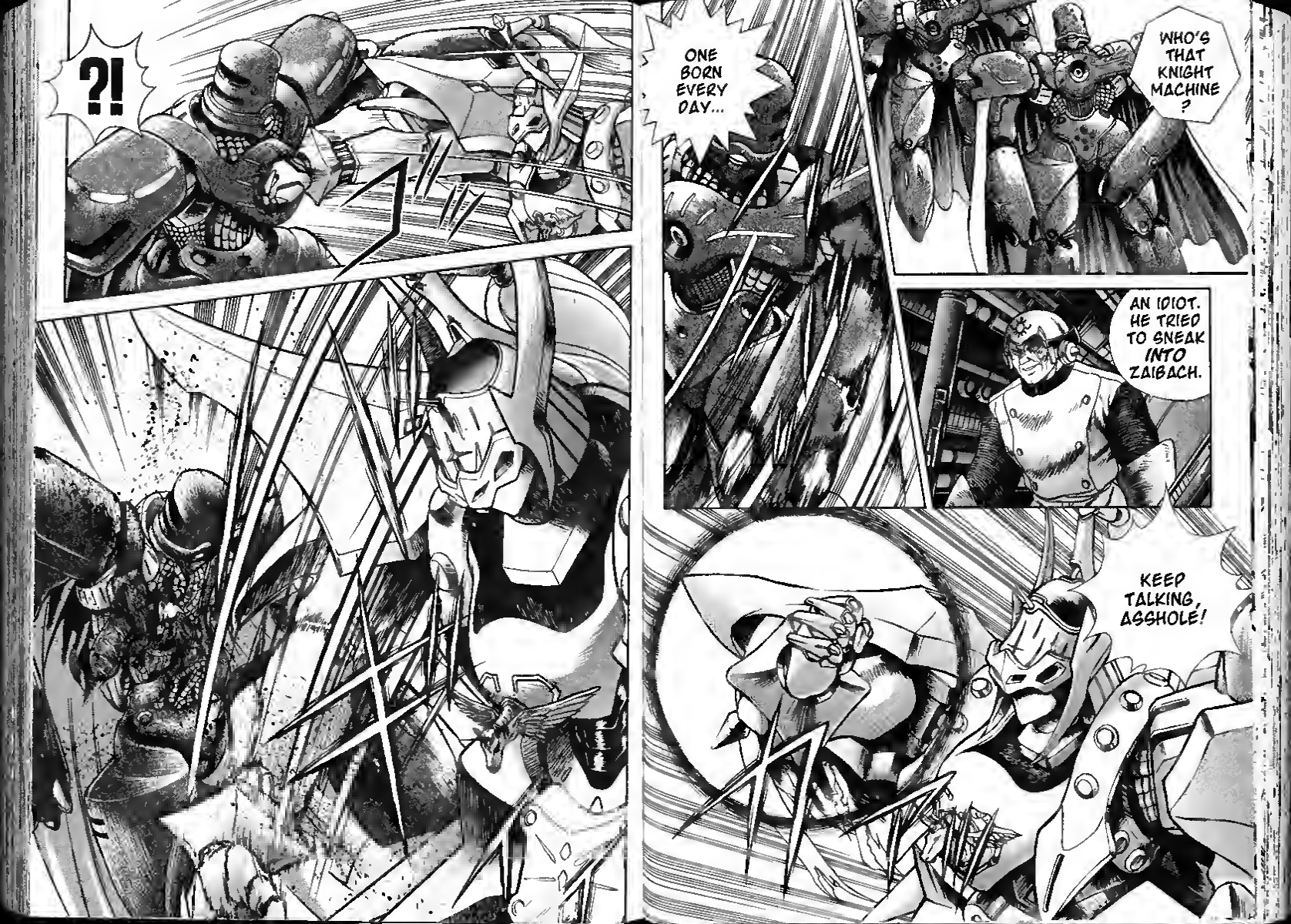

huff
huff

WE'RE ALMOST THERE.


Dilandau, a traitor?

WHAT'S THAT?
SYNCHRO-NIZE!
WE'RE MOVING OUT!

RELEASE THE ZAIBACH DEMON MACHINES!
GET READY; HERE THEY COME.


?!
ONE BORN EVERY DAY...
WHO'S THAT KNIGHT MACHINE ?
AN IDIOT. HE TRIED TO SNEAK INTO ZAIBACH.
KEEP TALKING, ASSHOLE!

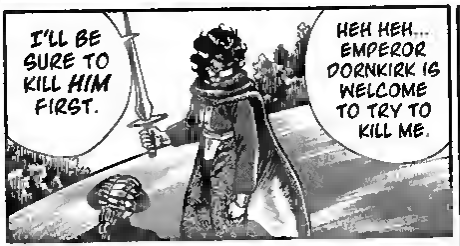
HE'S NOT GETTING AWAY!
KEEP AFTER DILANDAU!
THAT PRICK IS MINE.
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE THAT POMPADOURED SON OF A BITCH!
BRING IT ON!
SUR-ROUND HIM!
H-HOLY...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, BASTARDS? DON'T YOU WANNA TASTE?!
TO HELL WITH THEM!

WHERE ARE WE HEADED?
DILAN-DAU...
I HAVE NOWHERE TO GO.
NOWHERE.

I, DILANDAU ALBATOU, SCORNED WARRIOR OF ZAIBACH...
...WILL RULE THIS ENTIRE PLANET!

HA HA HA HA HA!

IF YOU DO, I'LL HAVE TO CRUSH YOU.
MY LITTLE BIRD... DON'T BOTHER TRYING TO ESCAPE.
...SIMPLY DO WHAT I SAY.
IF YOU WANT TO LIVE...


I'LL BE SURE TO KILL HIM FIRST.
HEH HEH... EMPEROR DORNKIRK IS WELCOME TO TRY TO KILL ME.

AFTER WHAT YOU'VE DONE, YOU KNOW THE EMPIRE WILL NOT PARDON YOU.

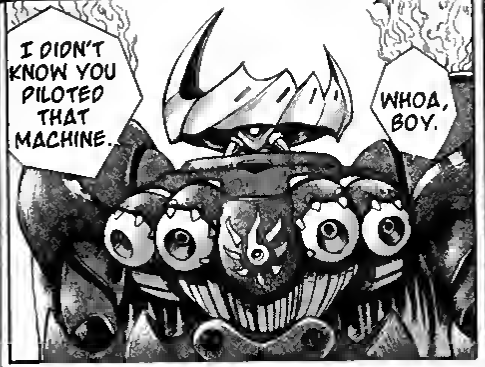
AND I ALSO KNOW THAT THE EMPIRE WILL FALL ONE DAY. TO ME.
YOU SEE, LITTLE BIRD, I KNOW HIS TRUE AMBITION.
I KNOW THE SECRET OF THE EMPIRE.

WHY DON'T YOU COME OVER HERE AND I'LL SHOW YOU?!
gong
gong
gong
HUH ?
PISS OFF!
HOW CAN THIS KID POSSIBLY HIT SO HARD?!
I-IMPOSSIBLE!

UG!
DON'T THESE GUYS LEARN-
YOU CAN SUCK ON YOUR DAMN FUEL!
GYAAAGH!
HEH. THAT'S OUR SUPER FUEL BOILING UP FROM UNDER-GROUND.
WHAT'S THAT LIGHT?
SUPER FUEL?
YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST OUR SUPERIOR TECHNOL-OGY!
PRETTY IMPRES-SIVE, RIGHT?
THAT MINING TOWER COLLECTS IT AND HARVESTS IT FOR USE.
ktink

THE KNIGHT OF FLAME!
YOU LOOKING FOR A PIECE--
THAT'S ENOUGH, YOU.
WHOA. HE COMPLETELY VAPORIZED.

I'LL DAMN WELL TAKE IT THE WRONG WAY! WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS WRONG!
DON'T TAKE THIS THE WRONG WAY.


I DIDN'T KNOW YOU PILOTED THAT MACHINE.
WHOA, BOY.

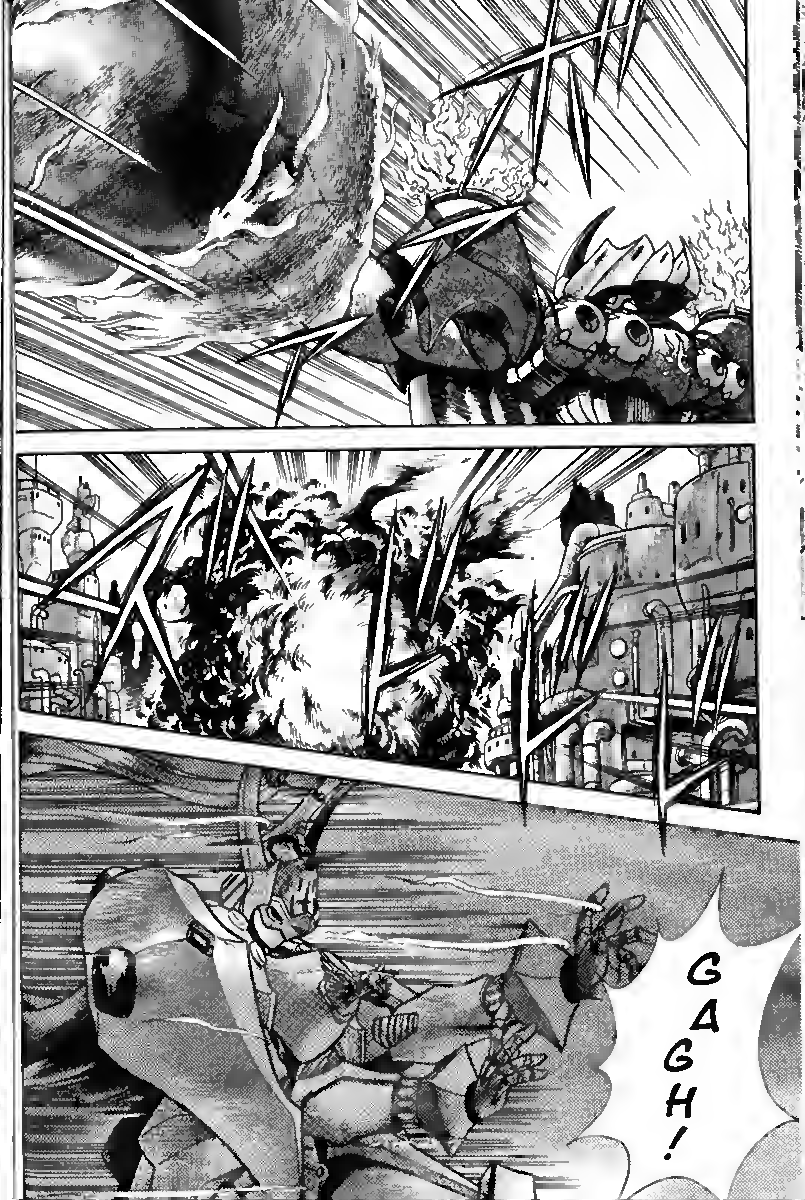
WAIT... THAT'S YOU IN THERE?!

I WAS KINDA HOPING THAT GUY WOULDN'T SHOW UP.
OH SHIT ...

I'D RATHER IT NOT BE YOU, BOY. BUT I'M UNDER ORDERS.
YES, IT'S YAIFA. CAN YOU HEAR ME?

..
GOOD-BYE.
EAT THIS!
THERE'S NO WAY I'M GOING DOWN WITHOUT A FIGHT!
AMMIT!
THERE'S NOWHERE LEFT TO RUN.
BEHIND YOU GLOWS OUR SUPER FUEL.
CRAP. ANY IDEAS?
BESIDES SCREAMING IN TERROR? NO.

DAMMIT, HE KNOCKED US INTO THE FUEL LINE!


GAGH!

VISION 13:
EMPEROR DORNKIRK
AAAAAGH!

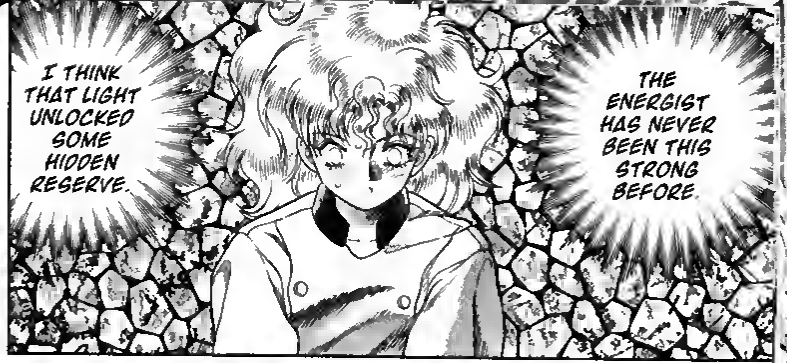
W-WE'LL B-B-BREAK D-DOWN!
D-DAMMIT! GAAGH!
IT'S OVER. THE LIGHT OF OUR SUPER FUEL DISINTEGRATES ANYTHING.
HITOMI?!
IT DOESN'T... IT'S NOT HURTING US ANYMORE.
I THINK WE'VE ACTUALLY GOTTEN STRONGER!

I THINK ESCA-FLOWNE'S POWERING UP ON HER OWN.
...DOES THAT MEAN WE'RE ABSORBING THE LIGHT?
WAIT. IF THE ENERGIST IS CRYSTALLIZED SUPER FUEL...
WHAT?

WHAT'S GOING ON? YOU SHOULD BE DEAD.
NO. WHY AREN'T YOU---?

I THINK WE JUST HIT SOME KINDA FULL POWER UP!

OUR FIGHT IS WITH DILANDAU, NOT WITH YOU.
I DON'T WANNA KILL YOU, FLAME KNIGHT!
EMPEROR DORNKIRK ORDERED ME TO STOP YOU.


I THINK THAT LIGHT UNLOCKED SOME HIDDEN RESERVE.
THE ENERGIST HAS NEVER BEEN THIS STRONG BEFORE.

ALL RIGHT, BOY. WHAT THE DEVIL'S GOING ON?

YOUR POWERS ARE IMPRESSIVE, BUT MY FLAME IS STILL STRONGER. THERE'S NO POINT IN RESISTING.

WE ACTUALLY OVERPOWERED THE KNIGHT OF FLAME!
HELL YEAH!
WHAT ?!
HMPH. THIS SHOULD BE INTEREST-ING.
WHAT ?

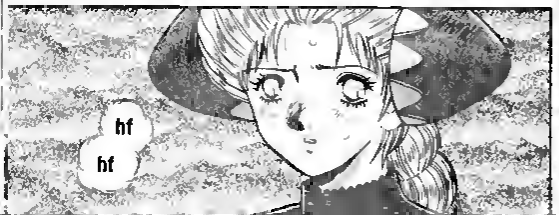
YOU GRACE US, MIGHTY EMPEROR!
LORD DORNKIRK!
NO WONDER HE KEEPS HIMSELF HIDDEN!
THAT'S DORNKIRK?
PRAISE OUR EMPEROR DORNKIRK!
GREAT EMPEROR DORNKIRK!
THAT DIRTY GEEZER'S THE ONE RUNNING THE EMPIRE.

Foolish, filthy trespassers.
Trespassers.
EMPEROR DORNKIRK!
UCK! THERE'S A GROSS OLD MAN IN THE SKY!

EAT ME! HOW DO YOU CALL SLAUGHTERING FOREIGNERS PEACE?!
No. Peace.
PEACE? YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING!
If you surrender, your lives will be spared.
Trespassers, it's useless to resist.
ALL THOSE PEACEFUL COUNTRIES YOU DESTROYED DIDN'T FRICKIN' RESIST!
GIMME A GODDAMN BREAK, GEEZER!
You don't yet know the future of this planet.
You're too foolish to understand.
The future, the fate, of this world is to die.
DIE?
The cause was noble. With all the ultimate fuel in my possession, I will lead this world to peace.
That was in my search for fuel across this planet.
HAIL LORD DORN-KIRK!
YES, EMPER-OR!

The only force that can stop this fate is the science of my empire.
THIS PLANET'S NOT GONNA DIE, FOGEY. YOU ARE!
LET'S GO, HITOMI.
I CAN'T LET YOU, BOY!
SINCE WHEN DID I ASK YOU?!
UGH!
ESCA-FLOWNE!

IT'S THE ONLY PLACE WE CAN GO.
FASTER. BEYOND THIS FOREST IS THE BASE OF THE ANTI-EMPIRE GROUP--THE REBELS WHO LEFT THE ZAIBACH ARMY.


hf
hf

huh
huff

Follow them.

If you don't hold back, you will defeat him easily.
You did not use your full power, Flame Knight. I assume you were testing him.

I FULFILL YOUR EVERY WISH, EMPEROR.
YES.

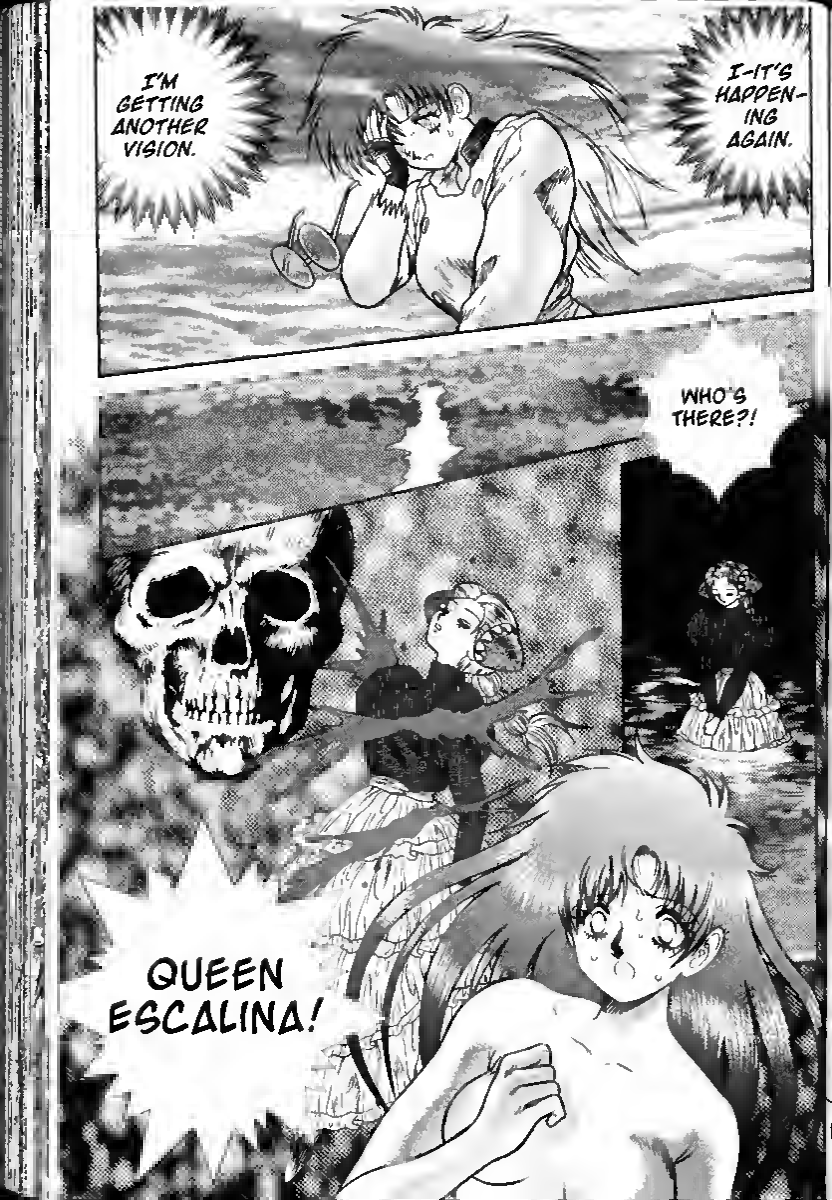
?!
Shaaa!
HMPH!
OUT OF THE WAY, ESCALINA!
DIRTY VERMIN!
AUGH!
DON'T TOUCH ME!
huff
huff
YOU'RE INJURED!

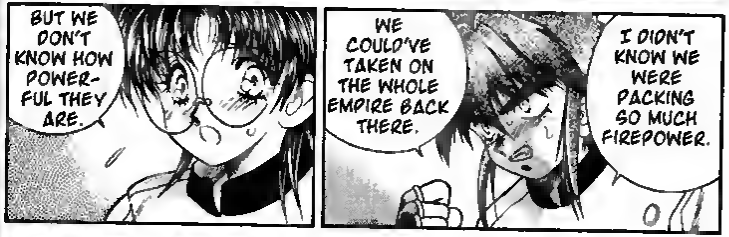
THIS PLACE..THIS IS THE FOREST OF DECEPTION.
WE'RE IN DANGER HERE. WE SHOULD TAKE THE MOUNTAIN INSTEAD.
DON'T YOU DARE ORDER ME AROUND! DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
hisss
WHAT?

IS IT THAT YOU FEAR BELIEVING IN SOMETHING AND THEN SUFFERING BETRAYAL?
YOU DON'T TRUST BECAUSE YOU'RE AFRAID.
YOU TRY TO ESCAPE A PAST CRIME BY COMMITTING MORE.
YOU COMMIT THESE CRIMES TO ESCAPE AN UNBEARABLE SADNESS.
IT'S NOT THAT YOU DON'T FORGIVE OTHERS. YOU DON'T FORGIVE YOURSELF.
STOP THIS, DILANDAU.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUN AWAY. YOU CAN FORGIVE.

tug
I'VE REMOVED THE POISON, BUT THE WOUND MAY STILL HURT.
HAS THE BLOOD STOPPED?
I BELIEVE YOU NO MORE THAN I BELIEVE DORNKIRK. THE ONLY PERSON I TRUST IS MYSELF.
I WILL NOT RUN AWAY.
THAT'S A LIE.
HEH.. HOW VERY THOUGHTFUL OF YOU, QUEEN. BUT IF YOU THINK SUCH AN ACT WILL SET YOU FREE, YOU'RE TERRIBLY MISTAKEN.

...end the pain and sinful fire...
cleanse with holy water and the blessings that you dole.
IT'S THE SONG.
THE ONE I HEARD THE NIGHT I KILLED MY MOTHER.
LITTLE BIRD...
I'VE WAITED SO LONG...
...JUST TO HEAR YOU SING THIS.
NNGH!
Y-YOU TALK TOO MUCH.
...when I pass, please purify my soul
Quench the burning of desire...
I plead, peaceful spring of Ubdo.

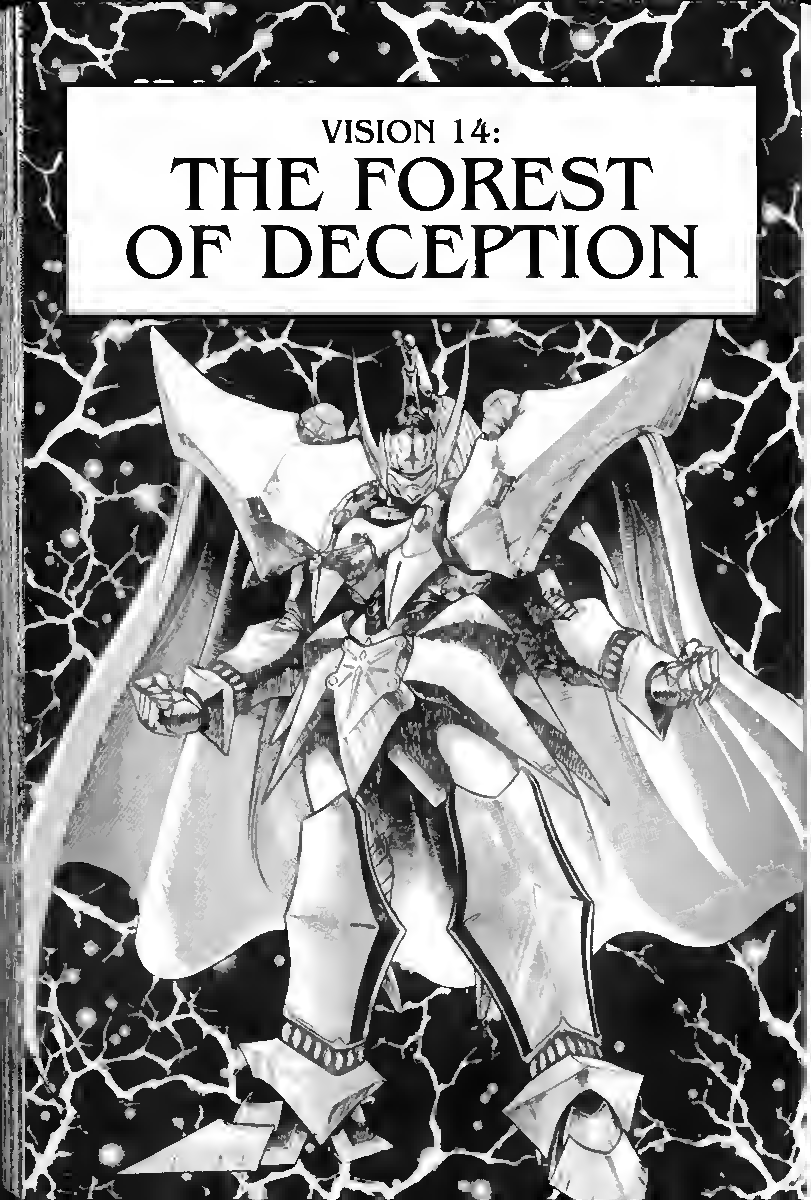

I'M GETTING ANOTHER VISION.
I-IT'S HAPPEN-ING AGAIN.
WHO'S THERE?!
QUEEN ESCALINA!


BUT WE DON'T KNOW HOW POWER-FUL THEY ARE.
WE COULD'VE TAKEN ON THE WHOLE EMPIRE BACK THERE.
I DIDN'T KNOW WE WERE PACKING SO MUCH FIREPOWER.

WHATEVER. RIGHT NOW, LET'S FOCUS ON FINDING DILANDAU AND SAVING MOTHER.
SHE'S RIGHT. AND WE'RE JUST ONE KNIGHT MACHINE. SO SETTLE.
SET-TLING BITES.
WHAT?

VISION 14:

THE FOREST OF DECEPTION

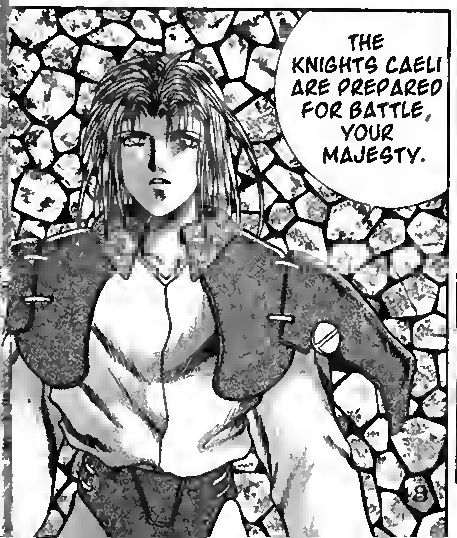


HOW COULD I TELL HIM?
NO! JUST SOME INDIGESTION. IT'S THAT ASTURIAN FOOD.
ba-bump
BUT...I'M POSITIVE. I KNOW SOMETHING TERRIBLE'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO THE QUEEN!

OH, CRAP!

IT'S DANGER-OUS TO KEEP FLYING.
IT LOOKS LIKE THE SPACE-TIME STORM IS TOO CLOSE TO SEA LEVEL TONIGHT.
WE'RE GONNA LAND?
HAVE TO.
?!

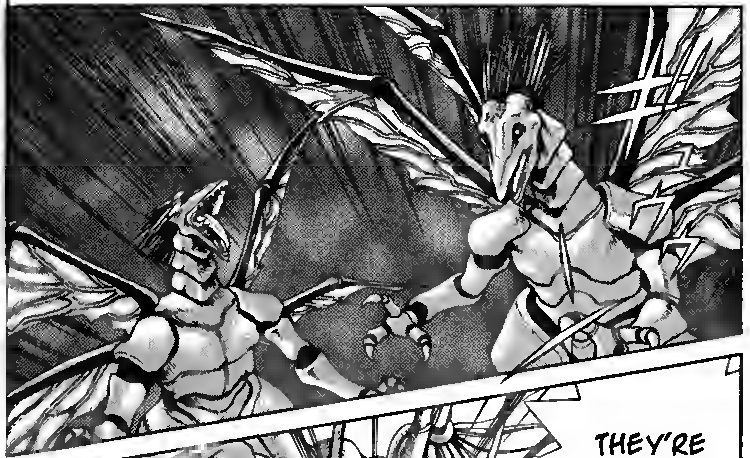
Kingdom of Asturia


THE KNIGHTS CAELI ARE PREPARED FOR BATTLE, YOUR MAJESTY.

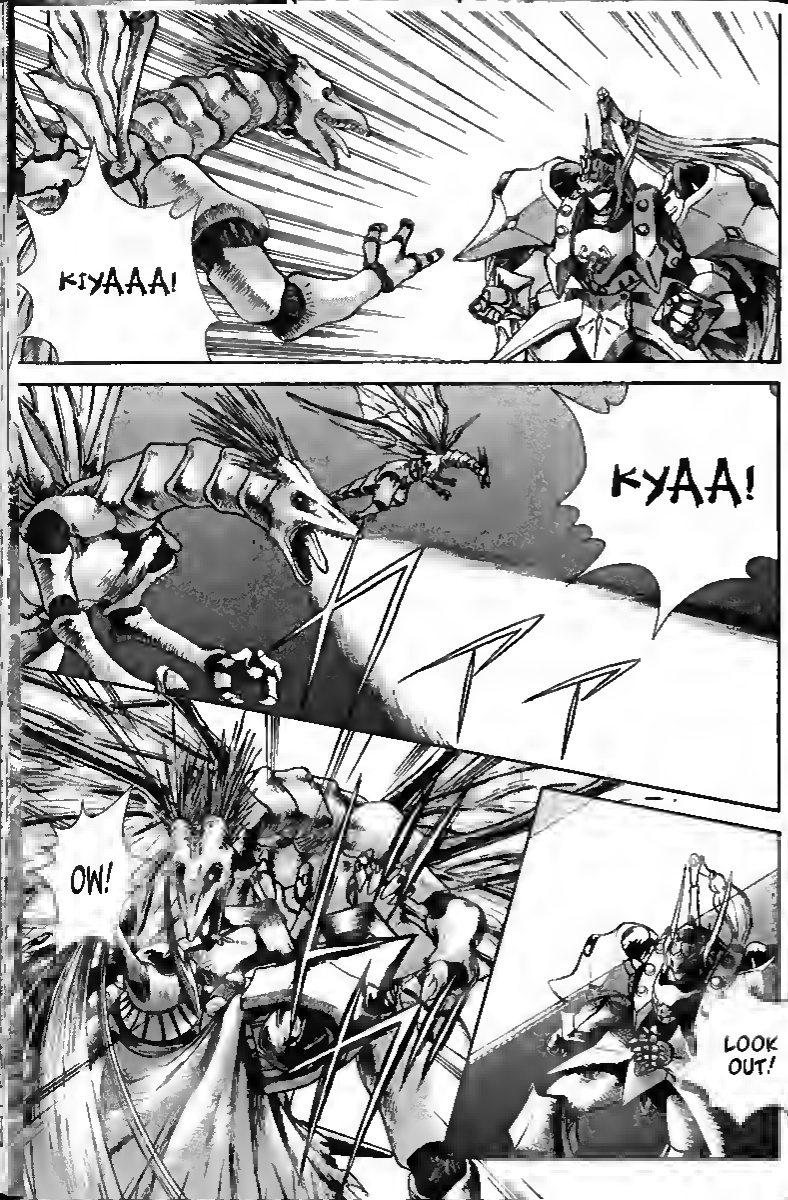
IT SEEMS THE PREPARATIONS ARE COMING ALONG WELL, ALLEN.
AH... YES.

THEY CAN ACTUALLY SURVIVE IN SPACE-TIME STORMS.
THOSE ARE HAWK DRAGONS

ARE THOSE ARE EARTH DRAGONS?
I WISH



THEY'RE COMING FOR US.
GET READY TO FIGHT!


KIYAAA!
KYAA!
OW!
LOOK OUT!

ABOUT THAT...
.....

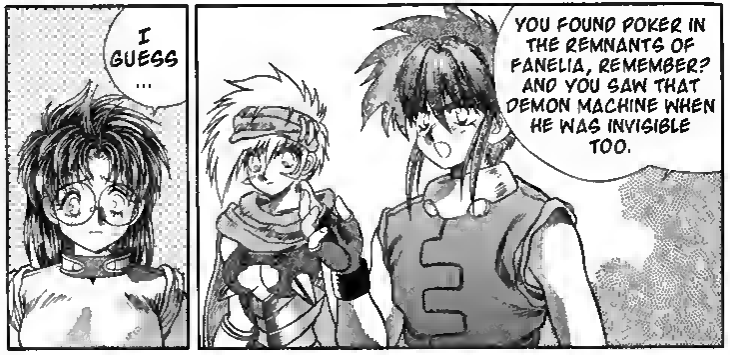
YOU REMIND ME MORE OF YOUR FATHER
EVERY DAY, ALLEN...

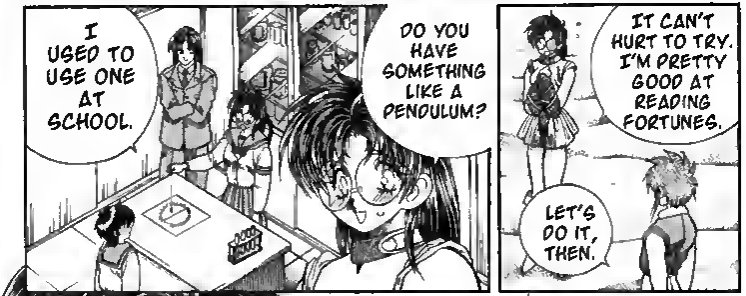
YES I UNDER-STAND.

RETURN TO ASTURIA. I'M WAITING.
VAN, I HOPE YOU HAVEN'T GOTTEN YOURSELF KILLED.
PLEASE DON'T REJECT MY HELP. YOU'RE GOING TO NEED IT.

AARGH!
DAMMIT!
THOSE GUYS EAT METAL. WE'VE GOTTA TAKE 'EM OUT!
R-RIGHT.
GULP

KYAAA!
IT'S KINDA SCARY TO SEE LITTLE ESCA GETTING SO POWERFUL.
AW... POOR THINGS.
WHOA.
...I'VE BEEN ABLE TO SYNCHRONIZE PERFECTLY. PRETTY GOOD, HUH?
YEAH. EVER SINCE THE TIME IN ZAI-BACH.
YOU POWERED UP PRETTY QUICK.
DAMN, GIRL.
REAL GOOD. KICK ASS, HITOMI!
HYAA!


I GUESS ...
YOU FOUND POKER IN THE REMNANTS OF FANELIA, REMEMBER? AND YOU SAW THAT DEMON MACHINE WHEN HE WAS INVISIBLE TOO.

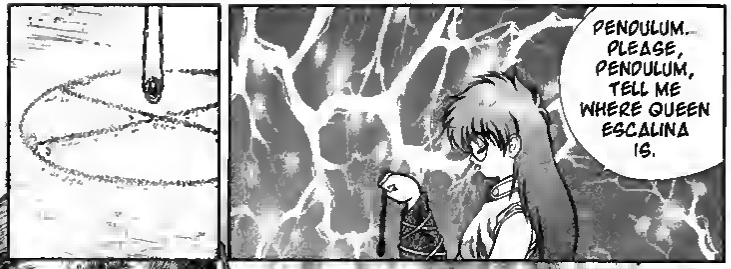

I USED TO USE ONE AT SCHOOL.
DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING LIKE A PENDULUM?
IT CAN'T HURT TO TRY. I'M PRETTY GOOD AT READING FORTUNES.
LET'S DO IT, THEN.

.....
SCHOOL?
HERE.
THIS IS THE STONE OF MEMORY MY MOTHER GAVE ME.

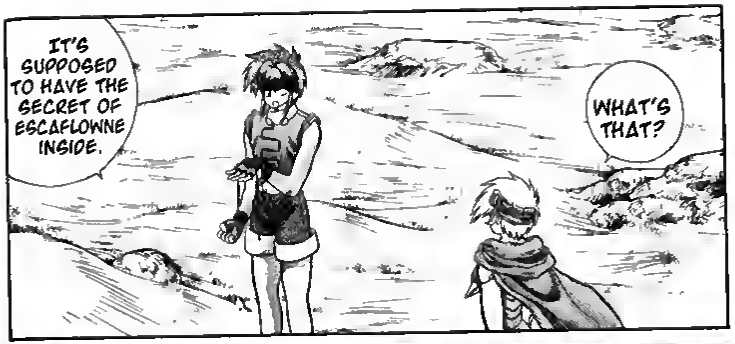
RRGH! DAMMIT, DILANDAU! WHERE ARE YOU?!

HEY, HITOMI.

FIND HIM?
CAN YOU TRY FINDING HIM WITH YOUR ENERGIST POWERS?
DESERT TROMPING. FUN.


PENDULUM. PLEASE, PENDULUM, TELL ME WHERE QUEEN ESCALINA IS.

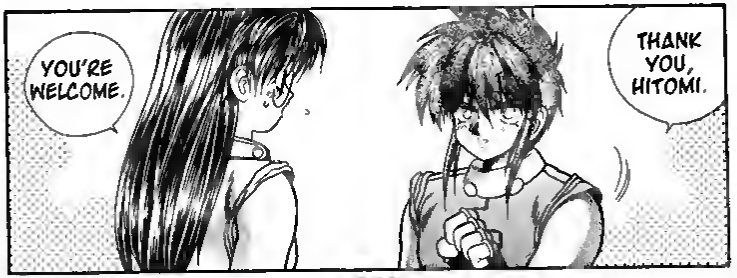
!!
I CAN'T CONCENTRATE. I KEEP SEEING THOSE IMAGES.
IT WAS PROBABLY JUST FROM WORRY-ING TOO MUCH
Mmm


IT'S SUPPOSED TO HAVE THE SECRET OF ESCAFLOWNE INSIDE.
WHAT'S THAT?

YEAH, THE DISTILLED STUFF. UNTAINTED, Y'KNOW?
WATER ?

DROP IT IN PURIFIED WATER, I THINK.
REALLY? HOW DO WE GET IT OUT?

I GUESS THAT'LL HAVE TO WAIT.


YOU'RE WELCOME.
THANK YOU, HITOMI.

I'M SORRY...
LET ME TRY AGAIN.
NNGH...

N-NOT YET.
NO GOOD?

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT. ALL THIS IS BECAUSE I'VE FAILED.
HEY, LOOK. DON'T WORRY, OKAY?

SO IF YOU GIVE UP, I'LL BE FORCED TO KICK YOUR ASS.
WHAT?

LOOK, VAN.
I'M NOT GIVING UP.
.....

EARTH...

AND I'M STILL HERE, FIGHTING WITH VAN...
SIR ALLEN FEELS LIKE HE'S SO FAR AWAY.

EVEN AFTER VISITING UBOO, I STILL DON'T KNOW HOW TO GET HOME.

...WHAT I WAS BROUGHT HERE TO ACCOMPLISH?
IF THERE IS SUCH THING AS FATE, WILL SOMEONE PLEASE TELL ME...

THERE'S A FOREST ENVELOPED BY FOG.
I... I CAN SEE A FOREST.
AH!
THEN THAT'S WHERE WE'RE GOING. BACK TO ESCAFLOWNE!
flip
I THINK THE FOREST OF DECEPTION IS THAT WAY.
REALLY ?
IT'S POINTING NORTH-WEST.

BUT AT LEAST YOU'RE TRYING. THAT'S MORE THAN A LOT OF PEOPLE CAN CLAIM.
ADMITTEDLY, I THOUGHT YOU WERE A MORON AND A PANSY AT FIRST.
I THINK I NOW UNDERSTAND WHY MY FATHER DIED FOR YOU.
I THOUGHT YOU SAID I SUCK.
WH-WHAT?
.....
THAT FACE IS DAMN CREEPY!
SHH! PLEASE BE QUIET!
OH YEAH
YOU'RE NOT HELPING YOURSELF !
OW!

I HAVE TO KILL CAPTAIN DILANDAU?
N-NOTHING, SIR.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
.....
NOW, AS FOR FANELIA'S GUARDIAN GOD. COLT! SHILHA!
WHAT'S GOING ON, YAIFA?
Zaibach Empire.
...CAN NO LONGER... FFK ESCA-FLOW...
ADMIRAL ZONG! ZZT SPACE-TIME STORM
KNIGHT OF FLAME, YOUR TARGET IS NOW DILANDAU.
I'M TAKING COMMAND OF THIS OPERATION.
TIME FOR YOU TO PRACTICE SOME INSUBORD-INATION.
I KNOW HE WAS YOUR DIRECT SUPER-VISOR.
Heh.
CAPTAIN DILANDAU? FOR ME?

COLT, SHILHA, I WANT YOU TO FIND ESCAFLOWNE ...
...AND BRING ME BACK THAT GIRL WITH THE GLASSES. ALIVE.
THAT'S ALL?
HEHEH. YOU'RE MINE, GIRLIE.
AND SO IS THE SECRET BEHIND YOUR LITTLE POWER SHOW.
CONSIDER IT DONE
YAY, OUR FIRST BATTLE! FIGHTING!
WHY THE EMPEROR PUTS SUCH FAITH IN THESE FANELIAN BRATS IS BEYOND ME.
WHAT? SUCH DIS-RESPECT--
YO, GEEZER.
YOU CALLED, POPS?
DON'T YOU EVER TOUCH ME!
YOU HAVEN'T LOST YOUR SPIRIT, I SEE.
REAL FEMIN-INE, SHILHA.
C'MON! THAT WAS SEXY AS HELL!

IT'S TIME TO SUIT UP, KNIGHT OF GOLD.
BEATDOWN BLAST, KNIGHT OF SILVER!

HA... WHAT A M-MESS.
THE POISON OF THOSE LIZARDS IS AFFECTING YOU.
huh
hf
MMN. MY HANDS AND LEGS ARE GOING NUMB.
ESCALINA, WHY DID YOU...SING THAT SONG EARLIER?
BECAUSE YOU WERE SUFFERING
THAT SONG IS A SONG OF HEALING HANDED DOWN FROM THE ANCESTORS OF FANELIA

IT'S THE FOG. I'M AFRAID IT'S TOO THICK.
huff
huff
WE SHOULD HAVE REACHED THE OTHER SIDE BY NOW.
DOES THIS WRETCHED FOREST EVER END?!
hah
huff

WHAT?!
HOW DO I GET OUT OF THIS FOREST?
SOME- ONE, ANYONE, HELP!
WHAT'S GOING --
UP THERE.
FARLA ?!

SO M-MY SUFFERING CAN'T BE HEALED?
I'VE INFLICTED TOO MUCH PAIN... ON TOO MANY.
..YOU WOULDN'T HURT YOURSELF OR OTHERS ANY LONGER.
IF YOU COULD JUST SEE YOUR TRUE SELF...
slip
NN ...
huff
ha
IT'S... T-TOO LATE FOR THAT.

?!
YOU SHOULDN'T LOOK.
THAT'S ME!
IT'S FANELIA! FROM A LONG TIME AGO...
ハァ。
WHA--
NO, DILANDAU. THE SCALES ON FARLA WINGS HAVE THE POWER TO BRING OUT LOCKED MEMORIES.
IMPOS-SIBLE
WHAT YOU JUST SAW WAS A SCENE FROM THE PAST.
THE FAIRY FARLA SCATTER BYGONE SCENES FROM THEIR POWDERY WINGS.

I WAS JUST A CHILD. I DIDN'T MEAN TO KILL HER!
I DIDN'T MEAN IT.
?!
BUT MY OWN MOTHER.. SHE TRIED TO KILL ME!
I TRUSTED HER.
I...HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU, DEAR.
DON'T! NO!
MOMMY DOESN'T.. MOMMY DOESN'T LOVE ME!
SHE DOESN'T WANT ME ANYMORE.
WHAT'S WRONG, MOMMY?
EVER SINCE DADDY DIED..
IF YOU LET THE IMAGES HAUNT YOU, YOU'LL ONLY CONTINUE TO SUFFER.
IF YOU GO, YOU'LL END UP KILLING HER!
NO, WAIT!
LET GO!
DON'T GO, DILANDAU! LEAVE IT!

BE... FREE...
YOU MUST... FORGIVE. END YOUR SUFFERING.
YOU P-POOR CHILD.
GGHK. GHHGH.
NOOOOOO!!
E-ESCALINA!

To be continued...

Author's Notes

Katsu Aki

Hey, Katsu Aki here!

To clarify things a bit, this manga of *The Vision of Escaflowne* is based on the original anime concepts by Shoji Kawamori. The anime version of *Escaflowne* (I'm sure some of you have seen it) is based on those same original concepts. Because this manga project started a year and a half before the anime production, we didn't create this manga with the same storyline as the anime version.

Due to the fact that this is being published in a different medium, there are scenes we intentionally changed from the original story. However, whenever we needed to make changes to characters or episodes, we always made sure not to destroy the original world of Mr. Kawamori. In addition, we tried to stay in tune with the animated *Escaflowne* by working closely with Mr. Kawamori–especially when we introduced new characters. (It was some endeavor; we had to send faxes to Mr. Kawamori while he was staying in Italy, and we even had to track him down once and ended up finding him on an aircraft carrier. Oops, sorry, I'm digressing.)

My policy used to be that I only worked on originals pieces, but (perhaps because I'm older) I decided to take on this job in order to tackle a new challenge. So there you go.

From anime to manga. From manga to anime. There are many different approaches you can take, but please note and enjoy the differences between the

two types of media (as well as the differences in the story). It should come off as quite interesting, since these two versions stem from the same original concept.

Nonetheless, I hope you can enjoy both Mr. Kawamori's world, which provided the base and structure for everything, and my story, which I couldn't help giving a bit of my own flair. Very well then. I hope to continue to share *The Vision of Escaflowne* with you, and I hope you'll stay through the growth of Van and Hitomi with me.
April, 1996

A ROUGH DESIGN OF ESCAFLOWNE BY SHOJI KAWAMORI, DRAWN IN THE VERY EARLY STAGES OF THE PROJECT.

In the next volume of

THE VISION OF ESCAFLOWNE

Unaware of Queen Escalina's fate, Hitomi, Van and Shian continue their quest for the missing monarch. The search leads them into the magical Forest of Deception where they must fight for their lives against Zaibach warriors while fighting for their sanity against the visions of the mad forest. Just when it seems things can't get any worse, Hitomi faces a terrible choice between giving up her life on Earth or sacrificing her newfound friends. What follows will take all of Van's ability, the strength of Hitomi's heart...and a miracle.